

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The claims have also been amended to delete multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

The specification has been amended to provide cross-referencing to the International Application.

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) Method according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that said composite material comprises hydroxyapatite and/or other apatite in a concentration of 5-80 vol%, preferably 10-50 vol% and even more preferred 25-45 vol%.

6. (Amended) Method according to [any of the claims 1-5]claim 1, characterized in that said closing of the system and applying of pressure takes place at temperatures below 900°C, for ceramic based composites preferably below 800°C, even more preferred below 700°, and for more metal based composites preferably below 500°C.

7. (Amended) Method according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that said densification of the material is driven to an end temperature above 900°C, preferably above 1000°C and even more preferred above 1100°C, for ceramic based composites, or 500-800°C, preferably 600-800°C for metal based composites, and an end pressure above 100 Mpa, preferably up to 200 Mpa.

8. (Amended) Method according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that said applying of pressure is performed as a partial applying of pressure, before an end temperature for the densification is reached, and before commencing decomposition of apatite phase, whereby a part of pressure of 0.2-10 Mpa is applied.

9. (Amended) Method according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that said densification of the material is performed stepwise, whereby a first part pressure is applied, preferably of about 0.2-5 Mpa, and is maintained up to a first temperature, whereafter a second part pressure is applied, preferably of about 1-10 Mpa, and is maintained up to a second temperature, whereafter a possible further is applied, or an end pressure and an end temperature is applied.

10. (Amended) Method according to [any of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that one or more helping agents are added to a barrier layer at densification by hot isostatic pressing or to a powder bed at densification by over pressure sintering, in order to further suppress unwanted reactions, like decomposition and oxidation.

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